

Claims

1. A credential transfer method for use on a distributed electronic network, the method comprising the steps of a sender communicating to a recipient a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential, the recipient selecting at least one of the credentials from the index of at least one credential provided by the sender, the recipient communicating to the sender an indication of the selected at least one credential and the sender providing to the recipient at least one credential corresponding to the selected at least one credential.

2. A credential transfer method according to claim 1, in which the method comprises the additional step of determining whether the at least one credential is sufficient and communicating the result of the determination to the sender.

3. A credential transfer method according to claim 1, in which the method comprises the additional step of determining a service level according to the at least one credential indexed in the credential index and the recipient communicating the service level to the sender.

4. A credential transfer method according to claim 1, in which the sender communicates a plurality of credential indices to the recipient.

5. A credential transfer method according to claim 4, in which the method comprises the additional step of determining a service level according to each of the plurality of credential indices communicated to the recipient by the sender and communicating the service level corresponding to at least one of the credential indices to the sender.

6. A credential transfer method according to claim 5, in which a service level is communicated to the sender for each credential index communicated to the recipient by the sender.

7. A credential transfer method according to claim 1, in which the credential comprises a digital credential.

8. A credential transfer method according to claim 1, in which the credential index comprises indices to a plurality of credentials.

9. A credential transfer method according to claim 8, in which the method comprises the additional step of the sender selecting a credential index from a plurality of available credential indices.

10. A method of providing a service over a distributed electronic network, comprising:

i. a user communicating to a service authoriser a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential;

- ii. the service authoriser selecting at least one of the credentials from the index of at least one credential provided by the user;
- iii. the service authoriser communicating to the user an indication of the selected at least one credential;
- iv. the user providing to the service authoriser at least one credential corresponding to the selected at least one credential; and
- v. the service authoriser authorising provision of the service to the user.

11. A computer readable memory configured so that it can be used to direct a computer to:

- i. communicate to a recipient a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential;
- ii. receive from the recipient an indication of at least one credential selected from the index; and
- iii. provide to the recipient at least one credential corresponding to the selected at least one credential.

12. A computer readable memory configured so that it can be used to direct a computer to:

- i. receive from a sender a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential;
- ii. select from the index at least one credential; and

- iii. enable an action on receipt of said at least one credential from the sender.

5 13. A digital credential index comprising a data structure which provides an index to at least one credential, whereby at least one credential can be selected on the basis of information provided within the data structure.

10 14. A digital credential index according to claim 13, wherein the data structure provides indices to a plurality of credentials.

15 15. A computer programmed to:

- i. communicate to a recipient a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential;
- ii. receive from the recipient an indication of at least one credential selected from the index; and
- 20 iii. provide to the recipient at least one credential corresponding to the selected at least one credential.

25 16. A computer programmed to:

- i. receive from a sender a credential index comprising an index referring to at least one credential;
- ii. select from the index at least one credential; and
- 30 iii. enable an action on receipt of said at least one credential from the sender.

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